BEHIND THE SCENES IN POLITICS

THE POLITICAL SOCIAL WHIRL

By ERNEST M'GAFFEY



(Copyright, by Joseph B. Bowles.) litical topics. He keeps track of past ought to go in the future. He is the life of all political assemblages, for he has the air of the expert and the glibness of an "illustrated lecturer." He attends the "wakes," funerals, games, christenings, church fairs, picnics and all other social happenings, and gets himself voted "the most popular man" whenever he has a chance.

I remember that at one political jamboree there was a "beauty show' and I was appointed one of the judges. The other two judges were "pulling together," and I saw I was "doublecrossed" before the "beauties" went on the platform. In front of the platform there was a big crowd on the chairs, and they were filled by the re-"fair." I had innocently supposed that things were "on the square" until and could hold your own in conversato go to a certain girl who, to my notion, was not within a thousand miles has learned with his head or his hands not only to talk politics, but to roll of being first in the race. I put up but what will come in handy in politubles, "play for the drinks." The I never heard one yet who could draw judges got a little bit uncertain, and at last, as first and second prizes were both gold watches, they agreed to let me select No. 2 if I would vote for their choice for first prize.

When No. 1's name was announced a grean went up from the crowd, ac- and making of motions, speeches, and companied by a cheer from one corner of the seats where the winner's partisans were bunched. When No. 2's name was given she was cheered by a big majority of the crowd, and I able in bringing the leaders of the was satisfied my eyesight was still different wards together and affording good. Now for both of these girls the vote had been solid, three votes for each. When it came to No. 3-and there were only three prizes worth always largely attended, and it was a anything-I did a little "double-crossing" myself. One of the judges proposed a girl who had a face like a custard pie at twilight. The other judge said, "Sure, that's the one!" I had selected a girl for this prize and was the "faithful" were on hand. had got her name, so I said to judge No. 2, "Where's your lady?" He pointed to her and I said, "Out of sight; but we'd better split the votes this time; you vote for Miss ing him the name of my choice-"so that the crowd won't have any holler coming on the split; two votes to one will win out anyway."

He did as 'suggested, but as I also voted for my choice the look of disgust that overspread his features when he saw how he had been "hornswoggled" was something classic. But all he said was "Holy gee!"

After a man has been mixed up in politics for a year or so he begins to lucky guy."
perceive that politics has as many angles in a social way : ; the game of "three-cushion caron: ' The variety ered by applicants. of gradations is so w dely diversified and the intervals ac abrupt that it four o'clock in the afternoon you may given. Don't imagine it did not cost be touching glasses with a young me-chanic at a "rathskeller" in a friendly chanic at a "rathskeller" in a friendly polite and otherwise. You were able chat over your beer as to how things to buy tickets to the balls, chances on

calling for a livelihood eats, drinks tional politics looms up. At twelve and sleeps politics. You cannot get that night you may be addressing forhim off the track. He finds little in- ty or fifty people in a little hall back terest in anything else. All his read- of some saloon. You must be preing, outside of the papers, is on po- pared to meet all kinds of people at a minute's notice, and you must be able elections and past ward votes, knows to understand them and adapt yourhow his ward has gone, will go, and self to them instantly and easily, or you will be lost in political society.

down-town headquarters where they are waiting for a meeting to be called. There may be twenty to thirty men dances, parties, baseball and football about, some sitting in chairs reading or talking, some at a card-table playa pool-table or a billiard-table. Can you play cards? Now, of course, it is but if you can make a hand at one card-table or "pocket eight balls from the break," or play a fair game of billiards you are a more welcome mem ber of society in that strata of political existence.

And if it should happen that you joined a group at some "high-toned" similar matters were being discussed, I was approached by one of the judges | tion, you were "making a hand" there, with the idea that the first prize ought the same as at the more plebeian political social life was at the saloons.

> Political club meetings, in the case of the down-town organizations, took place every Sunday in my time. They were enlivened by the admission of always something in the way of a vaudeville stunt by either a member of the club or some outside talent. These down-town meetings were valuthem an opportunity to exchange political news and to discuss the coming spring or fall campaign. They were disgrace for any ward to be called upon for information of any sort and not have a representative on hand. A disgrace that I never knew to happen but once. No matter what the weather

The president opened the meeting and the utmost freedom of discussion was allowed in any debate which might arise. Sometimes a recess was declared, and the men talked and smoked until the meeting was called to order again. It was amusing to see how those of the gathering who were office-holders were regarded. If their position gave them no "distributive" power, they were looked on as merely "happy accidents," and not ranking at "jobs" to sort out. In neither of my own positions did I have the appointment of even so much as a day-laborer at my disposal, so I was merely "a In fact I was lucky in anything to give out I was not both-

These meetings always arranged takes a truly cosmopolitan spirit to for the parades, the marching trips successfully "take the degrees." At and the "grand balls" which were anything to mingle in political society, look in his end of the ward. At 6 p. everything that could be raffled for it m. you may be dining with a bunch of the benefit of some needy politician, judges and party magnates in some badges and gloves, plug hats to march

| fashionable club, making wild guesses | in, together with other raiment, club | waltz tune at the platform you could The politician who is following the with the rest of them as to how na-dues, tickets to various dances and entertainments, and in fact, from just to show that you were not proud, morning until night, day in and day or that you knew how to "reverse." out, to "sift" your salary steadily into "the hopper."

The "grand balls" were of course the most important functions given times a lithe and sinuous jig-dancer by the party. They were attended by everybody, including the mayor, and port in, and great was the enthusiasm he led the grand march. It was a Suppose you happen to drop in at lively time, and diamonds were as lenge and come out on the boards to own-town headquarters where they plentiful as blackberries. Full-dress do a turn with the jig-dancer. Such adsuits were largely in evidence, and the dancing kept up until morning. At such a ball the extreme opposites of political life met, once a year, and ing a friendly game of cinch, others at the occasion was one to be remembered. Judges, with an eye to possible or probable re-nomination, were not at | peared among the spectators. not absolutely essential that you can; all too proud to attend, and occasionally some of the city's elite attended, just for the novelty of the thing. A ocratic as it seemed at first blush, had woman might be led out by an exits lines of demarcation, which were governor of the state for one set, and the next set-"take a turn down the middle With the man that shot Sandy McGee."

political club, where some topics such | ing, unique and picturesque, and rarespective adherents of the contesting as literature, art, science, invention or ly was there any disturbance that amounted to anything.

> amount of social intercourse thus had away any of the attendance at the in a large city is enormous. After the ordinary ward politician had eaten his supper he would be ready to engage in his political cruising, and he could new members, the reading of reports usually find a bunch of men at the bowling alleys, or in the card-room of his neighboring saloon. I went through a great many political fights and skirmishes, big and little, and except just at election times I saw very little drunkenness. But there was no doubt that the workingmen and me chanics gathered at the saloons to see each other. And there was no doubt that they spent money there: maybe more than they should have done. But that was where they went to find companionship; to meet their "society." I have often gone to the swell political clubs and there met the professional men, lawyers, doctors and professors, business men of large interests in various channels, and they sat at the tables and drank their wine where the ward fellows drank beer, and they played "bridge" or "poker" where the ward men played 'cinch," and when you come to the question of which is moral and which is not, I leave it cheerfully to every man for himself to judge.

Every year, and always in the good old summer-time, the swell picnic was all with those office-holders who had held, generally away out in the coun try in some grove. And here political society disported itself in its gayest and gladdest "rags," and gave itself up to unalloyed festivities of all sorts and kinds. There was the fat man's more ways than one, for not having race, the sack race, chasing the greased pig (so politically suggestive), the tug-of-war between the firemen and policemen's teams, the dances, the speeches, the bowling alleys, the "nigger baby and baseball" stand, the um brella and cane game, the lemonadstands, the wandering minstrels, and the "shell game." You could spend your money a little at a time at the diversified amusements, or you could have one swift thrill and lose it all at the "shells."

When the band struck up a favorite

go up and "pivot" with your partner, Dancing went on all the time, couples coming and going and round dancing being succeeded by quadrilles. Somegot a space cleared for himself to diswhen some girl would accept a chalvancing and swaying and retreating; such apparent indifference and then unexampled vigor; such a hammering of the boards and turning and twist ing, until at the end the crowd roared its approval and the dancers disap-

Political society at the picnics, dem ocratic as it seemed at first blush, had quite noticeably drawn. The wife and daughters of the "big boss" were on hand, together with the women-folks. of the various office-holders, but they It was a truly cosmopolitan gather- did not mingle with the-average lady picnickers. They sat by themselves in something of exclusive grandeur, and were pointed out by the more ordinary of the merry-makers to their Another and more common phase of companions.

> Sometimes a possible presidential presence and consented to hand out a sample of silver-tongued oratory. But baseball game or the fat women's race There's a limit, even to oratory.

Great was the consternation when as sometimes happened, the floodgates of heaven opened and drowned the picnic grounds. The last political picnic I attended commenced on a very threatening day, and at last the louds seemed to make up their minds o sweep the grounds. Our party had aken alarm, with a number of others. and had gone down the track to where the first train to town was stationed The crowd got there and jammed the train instantly. Just opposite the picnic ground, and a half mile from us, was a wide platform, uncovered, on which stood hundreds who were wait ing for this train. "Let her go, Sam," said the conductor; "no stop till we get to Chicago." Away we went, and as we passed the picnic grounds hundreds more came down through the drenching showers in white dresses that stuck to their limbs and straw hats that were being soaked to ruin. But the train went past regardless of their yells, and as it went by the car windows were raised and the chorus of the latest song was wafted into their-ears:

"Oh! ain't dat awful, Ain't dat a shame; To keep my baby Out in the rain.

His First Impression. They stood by the lake. She was rom Boston and poetical. "Are you romantic?" she chirped after a long silence.

"Exceedingly." replied the Chicago man as he lit another black cigar. "Ah, I am so glad to hear it. What does you yellow half moon remind

The Chicago man was thoughtful. "Well, to tell you the truth," he re ponded, after a minute's meditation, it reminds me of the half of a

numpkin ple and—"
But the Boston girl was gone. Such gross allusion to fair Luna was ore than her aesthetic nature could AT A CRITICAL TIME.

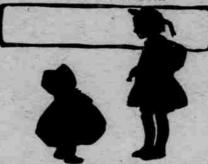
Women Are Likely to Suffer with Dan-gerous Kidney Disorders.

Mrs. John Kirk, R. F. D. No. 2, Detroit, Mich., says: "Five years ago at a critical time of life I was on the verge of a collapse with kid-ney troubles, back-ache, dizziness, puffy dropsy swellings and urinary irregularities. I lost flesh and felt languid, nervous or unstrung all the time.

As my doctor did not help me I began using Doan's Kidney Pills. In a few weeks all these symptoms left me. I now weigh 163 pounds and feel in ex-

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

AN EXPLANATION.



"Why didn't you answer your teacher when she spoke to you in the arithmetic class, Ethel?"

"Coz mamma told me I muthn't thpeak durin' theool hourth."

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PAINT.

The time to complain about paint is before the painter applies it. The man who puts up the money should not shirk the responsibility of choosing the paint. True, the painter ought to know paint better than the banker, the professional man or the merchant. The trouble is, the houseowner too often deliberately bars the competent and honest painter from the job by accepting a bid which he ought to know would make an honest job impossible.

Secure your bids on the basis of National Lead Company's pure White Lead and pure Linseed Oil and see that you get these materials.

No one need be fooled by adulterated white lead. A blowpipe testing outfit will be mailed to anyone interested in paint.

Address, National Lead Company, Woodbridge Building, New York City.

Force of Habit.

"Bet that lady has been to the mil-linery opening," whispered the big walter in the white apron.

"What makes you think so?" asked the cashier. "Why, I said: 'Madam, what kind

of trimmings do you like with your steak?' and she says: 'Why, make it black lace and two bunches of red cherries with wire leaves."

Kill the Flies Now

before they multiply. A DAISY FLY KILLER kills thousands, Lasts the sea-son. Ask your dealer, or send 20c to H. Somers, 149 De Kalb Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

The true test of greatness is the shility to wear the same size hat continuously.-Puck.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup.
For children teething, softens the guras, reduces in-flammation, allays pain, cures wind colls. 25c a bottle.

Even a poor wall-paper hanger may put up at good hotels.

One of the Essentials

of the happy homes of to-day is a vast fund of information as to the best methods of promoting health and happiness and right living and knowledge of the world's best products.

Products of actual excellence and reasonable claims truthfully presented and which have attained to world-wide acceptance through the approval of the Well-Informed of the World; not of individuals only, but of the many who have the happy faculty of selecting and obtaining the best the world affords.

One of the products of that class, of known component parts, an Ethical remedy, approved by physicians and commended by the Well-Informed of the World as a valuable and wholesome family laxative is the well-known Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna. To get its beneficial effects always buy the genuine, manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co., only, and for sale by all leading druggists.

SICK HEADACHE Positively cured by these Little Pills. They also relieve Dis-tress from Dyspepsia, In-digestion and Too Hearty Eating. A perfect rem-edy for Dizziness, Nau-sea, Drowsiness, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coat-ed Tongue, Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER, lowels, Purely Vegetable. IVER PILLS.

Genuine Must Bear Fac-Simile Signature REFUSE SUBSTITUTES

SMALL PILL, SMALL DOSE, SMALL PRICE

WIDOWS'under NEW LAW obtain PENSIONS by JOHN W. MORRIS Washington, D. C.

DESERVED TO WIN HIS CASE.

Really Able Argument Put Forward by Accused Sallor.

A very good story has recently-been told in the fleet of an incident which happened when Admiral Evans was in command of the Indiana. An old-time bluejacket was at the mast before Capt. Evans, charged with getting food out of a mess chest outside of meal hours. This getting of food for night watches is a common and strong desire on the part of most men aboard ship.

Capt. Evans asked the man what he had to say; and the man, sizing up the delicate situation, said:

"Captain, I didn't take no food outer that chest. Why, captain, there weren't no food in that chest! 1 looked in that chest, and, captain, I met a cockroach coming out of that chest with tears in his eyes."-Har-

Bees in Block of Stone.

While workmen were sawing through block of Bath stone at Exeter, England, they cut into a cavity in which was found a cluster of two or three dozen live bees.

The incident occurred at the works of Messrs. Collard & Sons, monumental sculptors. There was not much sign of life in the bees at first, but when air was admitted they gradually revived and after a few hours several of them were able to fly.

Starch, like everything else, is being constantly improved, the patent Starches put on the market 25 years ago are very different and inferior to those of the present day. In the lat-est discovery—Defiance Starch—all injurious chemicals are omitted, while the addition of another ingredient, invented by us, gives to the Starch a strength and smoothness never approached by other brands.

Very Likely.
"Again Mae Wood!" exclaimed the non-sensational reader of the newspa-

"Yes," replied his cynical friend; "I guess they wish Mae wouldn't."

Chocolate Pie Is Healthful. Chocolate is healthful and nutritious and chocolate ples are becoming very popular. They are easy to make if you use "OUR-PIE," Chocolate flavor. Directions on package. Contains all ingredients ready for in-Put up by D-Zerta Co., Rochester, N.Y."

Had Heard Later.

"Shaw's new play is said to be the last word on marriage." "Impossible," replied the married man. "It isn't even the latest word."

SORE EYES, weak, inflamed, red, watery and swollen eyes, use PETTIT'S EYE SALVE, 25e. All druggists or Howard Bros., Buffalo, N. Y.

We are willing to be knaves in order to acquire wealth, and fools in order that it may not bore us.-Life.

Lewis' Single Binder straight 5c cigat made of rich, mellow tobacco. Your deal-er or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

A well-informed physician is frequently ill-informed.

Clear white clothes are a sign that the housekeeper uses Red Cross Ball Blue. Large 2 oz. package, 5 cents.

It is dishonor to think what it is dishonor to do .- Pulsford.



WESTERN GANADA

Some of the choicest lands for grain growing, stock raising and mixed farming in the new dis-ricts of Saskatchewan and Alberta have re-cently been Opened for Settlement under the

Revised Homestead Regulations

Entry may now be made by proxy (on certain conditions), by the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of an intending homesteader. Thousands of homesteades of 160 acres each are thus now easily available in these great grain-growing, stock-raising and mixed farming sections.

There you will find healthful climate, good neighbors, churches for family worship, schools for your children, good laws, splendid crops, and railroads convenient to market.

Entry fee in each case is \$10.00. For pamph-

Entry fee in each case is \$10.00. For pamphlet, "Last Best West," particulars as to rates, routes, best time to go and where to locate, apply to J. S. CRAWFORD,

Kansas City, Missourt So. 125 W. Binth Street.





Thompson's Eye Water | W. N. U., Kansas City, No. 20, 1908